

Smörgåsbord



Harold Johnson
Editor

**Great Gift Idea
For Christmas**

We've discovered that there's an unselfish trait among FARM SHOW readers. They like to share good things with others.

That's why we're inviting you and other subscribers to give FARM SHOW for Christmas. Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us that they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.

Use the handy order envelope inserted elsewhere in this issue to order your Christmas gift subscriptions.

Here's a recap of our special Christmas gift offer (expires Jan. 1, 1984):

When you give more than one gift subscription, the price drops.

United States: Your first gift sub is \$9.95. Each additional gift sub is only \$7.95. It figures out to \$17.90 for two gift subs, \$25.85 for three, \$33.80 for four, etc.

Canada: Your first gift sub is \$11.95 (Canadian dollars). Each additional gift sub is \$9.95. It figures out to \$21.90 for two gift subs, \$31.85 for three, \$41.80 for four, etc.

With each gift sub we'll send a card, notifying each recipient of your thoughtfulness. The card and first issue will be processed in time to arrive shortly before Christmas — if you order now!

We'll also imprint the mailing label with "XMAS GIFT FROM (Your Name)" so the recipient will be reminded of your thoughtfulness throughout the entire year as each new issue arrives.

Merry Christmas and please order today so we can give your special Christmas gift orders the prompt attention they deserve. Contact: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-5572).

**More Christmas
Gift Ideas**

Give yourself! Your time! Iowa farm wife Mary Runkle, of Broomfield, suggests this great gift idea, which we featured in FARM SHOW three years ago. It's a dandy and worth repeating in case you missed it.

Mary and her husband Don have been giving each other, and their children, such personal gifts as "time" for many years. One year, for example, their gift was a promise to their children to spend one hour of time each week giving individual attention to each child, rather than playing with them as a group.

"After all the kids were in bed at 8:30 p.m., Mom and Dad spent one hour with one of the children who stayed up an extra hour," says Mary. "With five kids, this worked out well for evenings Monday through Friday. For that child's own hour, we

did whatever they wanted to do, such as read, talk, listen to records, etc. The idea was a great success."

Another gift of "self" that Mary gave to her husband one year was a promise of losing 10 lbs. of weight in a certain length of time. "Once I had promised it, I did it," she told FARM SHOW.

She has other suggestions for giving of yourself. Why not give an outing once a month to a nursing home patient? Or promise a letter a week for a year to someone who is in military service?

"A family can give a gift of inviting a lonely cousin, aunt or uncle to share a Christmas dinner or other holiday or family event," Mary suggests.

Giving of yourself and your time doesn't only have to be a Christmas gift. "When our children were young, we often gave each one a special birthday gift of an outing. We went along with that child to the place of his choice. It helped our children learn the social graces of eating in a restaurant, and you can imagine the fun each one had telling the others about his own personal adventure," says Mary.

The idea of giving yourself and your time as a gift has been tremendously satisfying to her, and now she looks for new ideas of this kind from other people. "In a day when store-bought gifts are expensive, consider giving a gift of a visit, an hour of play time, sharing a meal, or writing a letter to a friend or relative. These are the kind of gifts that make the giver feel as good as the person who receives the gift," she suggests.

Look-alike cans frustrate thieves — These gifts, when opened, look just like soda, beer or oil cans. But they're really cleverly disguised hiding places for storing jewelry, money and other valuables.

You can place the cans (called Boodles) in the



refrigerator, basement or garage without anyone suspecting that the beverage or oil cans actually hide valuables. The cans are authentic because they're the actual cans that the beverage and oil manufacturers use.

However, unlike ordinary cans, the inside of Boodles are lined with polypropylene, a hard plastic which adds weight to the can so it looks and feels like the real thing. The lids, which look like the regular pop top or flat top caps, are really screw-on covers.

RC Cola, Miller Lite beer, Penzoil, and Quaker State cans are available.

The beverage cans sell for \$7.95 and the oil cans for \$11.95, including postage.

For more information, contact: Boodle Cans, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 704, Lakeville, MN 55044 (ph 612-469-5572).

Personalized perpetual calendar — This idea, featured in FARM SHOW earlier this year (Vol. 7, No. 3) is still generating calls and letters. Designed by Janice and Dwayne Larkin, of Parsons, Kan., the calendar is good as new and ready for reuse year after year.

It can be handed from generation to generation and made to fit any month in any year, from now until the end of time, simply by rearranging the little blocks in the slides. Dwayne cuts the back from plywood and mounts the slides to hold the numbered blocks. Janice designs and paints the blocks, painting the numbers and pictures with permanent acrylic paint, then varnishing several times to make them withstand wear.

"The big reason people like these perpetual

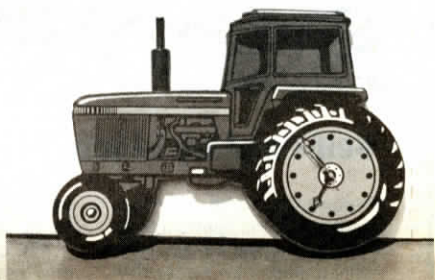


calendars is because of the personalized blocks. This makes them very special to the family members," says Janice. Personalized birthday blocks feature each family member's name and a picture pertaining to his or her hobby or interest.

The Larkins sell "how to" instructions, complete with patterns for painting the blocks, for making your own personalized perpetual calendar. Cost is \$4 per set.

Complete painted calendars with five personalized birthday blocks sell for \$45. A kit made up of blocks and other pieces which you paint and assemble yourself sells for \$30.

Contact: Janice and Dwayne Larkin, 1120 Alice, Parsons, Kan. 67357 (ph 316 421-6623).



Tractor clock — Wall clocks depicting Deere tractors will be a big hit with any lovers of "the long green line" on your gift list. Made of aluminum, they're equipped with a quartz clock mechanism which operates off a double EE battery. Sells for \$59.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Mann Co., Lloyd Mann, Pres., Rt. 7, Box 374, Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507 625-8551).



"I was saved by PIK" belt buckle — If you're looking for an unusual gift with a humorous touch, this commemorative PIK belt buckle may be the answer. They're numbered, with the first ones going as gifts to President Ronald Reagan and Agriculture Secretary John Block.

Made with a pewter finish, the limited edition buckle carries the message "I was saved by PIK, 1983" on the front side and, in small print on the back side, the following message: "1983 was the year of PIK (payment in kind program). It was the most costly farm program in history. Farmers were paid with commodities for taking land out of production. Commodities taken out of production were corn, sorghum, wheat, barley, cotton and rice."

Sells for \$12.50.

Contact: Leo Unkrur, Iowa Premium and Specialty Co., Cleghorn, Iowa 51014. (ph 712 225-2083).